

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

**Outcome 1 - Early Childhood**

**DEEWR Question No.** EW0443\_12

**Senator Nash asked on 1/06/2011, Hansard page 109.**

**Question**

**Qualifications of Child Care Workers**

Ms Taylor: Yes, but overall it will certainly lift the ability of people to be qualified. That recognition of prior learning is Certificate III diploma and advanced diploma. There are also grants of up to \$1,125 for workers in regional and remote areas to be able to access recognition of prior learning. There are a number of previous initiatives, such as TAFE fee waivers, to encourage people to take up qualifications in the TAFE sector, and that ranges from Certificate III to diploma and advanced diploma. We have some exact numbers on all of the various sectors and the numbers of child-care workers who have a qualification. Those numbers are increasing. If you would like those numbers, I can take that on notice.

Senator NASH: That would be really useful.

**Answer**

Qualifications levels of child care workers by type of service are published in the 2010 National Early Childhood Education and Care Workforce Census report which was released on 29 June 2011.

Below is a table from the Census report which provides information on the highest level of qualification of paid contact staff for the various service types. The full report can be found at <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Earlychildhood/Pages/NationalWorkforceCensus.aspx> .

**Table 3.3.1: Highest level of ECEC-related qualifications of paid contact staff, by service type** <sup>(a) (b)</sup>

Highest level of qualification completed	PS	LDC	FDC	IHC	OCC	OSHC	VAC	Total
<b>Percentage</b>								
Bachelor degree and above	36.7	9.4	4.5	6.3	8.3	9.3	14.2	14.0
Bachelor degree pass 4 years (or equivalent) and above	27.3	6.0	2.8	3.3	5.0	6.4	11.0	9.8
Bachelor degree pass 3 years (or equivalent)	9.4	3.4	1.7	3.1	3.3	2.9	3.1	4.2
Advanced Diploma / Diploma	17.4	31.9	16.0	13.4	36.7	18.0	17.0	24.6
Certificate III / IV	17.3	35.2	36.0	25.6	31.9	19.9	19.5	28.8
Below Certificate III	2.8	1.8	3.4	4.7	3.6	2.9	2.4	2.3
Total staff with an ECEC-related qualification <sup>(c)</sup>	74.2	78.3	59.9	50.1	80.5	50.0	53.1	69.8
Total staff without an ECEC-related qualification	25.8	21.7	40.1	49.9	19.5	50.0	46.9	30.2
<b>Number</b>								
Bachelor degree and above	7,271	5,457	541	51	53	1,236	1,654	16,263
Bachelor degree pass 4 years (or equivalent) and above	5,407	3,458	340	26	32	852	1,288	11,404
Bachelor degree pass 3 years (or equivalent)	1,864	1,998	201	25	21	383	367	4,859
Advanced Diploma / Diploma	3,437	18,504	1,916	108	237	2,385	1,984	28,571
Certificate III / IV	3,420	20,453	4,319	206	206	2,636	2,276	33,517
Below Certificate III	558	1,033	402	38	23	381	281	2,717
Total staff with an ECEC-related qualification <sup>(c)</sup>	14,686	45,447	7,178	403	520	6,638	6,196	81,068
Total staff without an ECEC-related qualification	5,106	12,583	4,810	402	126	6,628	5,473	35,127
<b>Total specified</b>	<b>19,792</b>	<b>58,029</b>	<b>11,989</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>13,266</b>	<b>11,669</b>	<b>116,194</b>
Total not specified	1,514	803	744	148	7	1,020	1,056	5,292
<b>TOTAL STAFF</b>	<b>21,306</b>	<b>58,832</b>	<b>12,733</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>14,286</b>	<b>12,725</b>	<b>121,487</b>

(a) Totals may not equal the sum of components due to rounding of weighted data.

(b) Table includes paid contact staff only. Paid contact staff refers to those workers who are paid and doing primary or other contact work.

(c) Relevant ECEC qualifications include early childhood teaching, primary teaching, other teaching, child care, nursing (including mothercraft nursing), other human welfare studies, behavioural science and other early childhood education and care related qualifications.

Acronym legend

**ECEC** Early Childhood Education and Care

**FDC** Family day care

**IHC** In home care

**LDC** Long day care

**OCC** Occasional care

**OSHC** Outside school hours care

**PS** Preschool

**VAC** Vacation care